

Application Serial No. 09/673,680

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Date June 23, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated March 19, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Claims 1, and 4 - 18 are pending in the case.

Claims 1, 4 - 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shimizu (JP-10036851A). Claims 1, 2, 4 - 6 and 11 - 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by (JP-10141644A). Claims 1, 4 - 6 and 11 - 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by (JP-11148779A). Claims 3, 7 - 10 and 14 - 18 were objected to as being dependent upon our rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has now been amended to include all of the limitations of base claim 1 and allowable claim 3. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Claims 4 - 18, which are ultimately dependent upon claim 1, are also believed to be allowable.

This Amendment should place this case in condition for passing to issue. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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